THE

Chriſtian Hiſtory;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival of Religion in *England Scotland* and *America*.

To be publiſh'd *Weekly*.

Saturday JULY 30. 1743. § Nº. 22.

ATTESTATIONS &c. *continued*.

'SUCH Things as theſe, my Brethren, with many others 'which might be mentioned, and I hope will be, I 'would look upon as Inſtances of GOD's Mercy, 'Love and Care for his People in this Land, and ſignal To-'kens of his abiding Preſence with them: That the LORD 'GOD of our *Fathers* is not about to leave or forſake us. 'And they call for our *moſt publick grateful Acknowledgments* 'and *higheſt Praiſes* to the ſovereign LORD and gracious 'HEAD of his Church.

'But we muſt at the ſame Time carefully watch, and bear 'due *Teſtimony* againſt all *Errors* and *Diſorders* that have or 'may ariſe, and continue in *Prayer* for *further Out-pourings* 'of the BLESSED SPIRIT to revive his Work in the midſt 'of the Years, and cauſe it to ſpread far and wide, even un-'til the *whole Earth* be filled with the Knowledge and Glory 'of the LORD. And in your Prayers remember me, a poor, 'weak and worthleſs Creature, that I may be made ſtrong in 'the Grace of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, enabled to keep 'the Faith, and finiſh my Courſe with Joy in the LORD.

'Ipſwich, *July* 2. 1743. *John Rogers*, Paſtor.

No. II. From the Rev. Mr. WISE, Paſtor of the Church in *Berwick*, in the County of *York*.

Berwick, *July* 1. 1743.

'IT was my Deſign to have attended the *Convention* of *Paſtors* 'after Commencement. But I am prevented by my

'Infirmities, which render me unable well to bear the Fatigue
'of a Journey in this hot Seaſon. However, it ſhall be my
'daily Prayer to the glorious HEAD of the Church, that you
'all may be under the Guidance and Influence of the DIVINE
'SPIRIT in all your Proceedings. I ſhall alſo be ready to
'join with the Friends of the *preſent glorious Work of the*
'*Grace of GOD* in the Land, in bearing *Teſtimony* to it as
'*ſuch a Work*; and to concur with them in the moſt proper
'*Methods* to remove *Diſorders*, and prevent the ſpreading
'and Increaſe of *Errors*; eſpecially *Arminian* & *Antinomian*:
'The *latter* of which, begin to appear bare-fac'd, as well as
'the *former* in ſome Places. And it ſeems very natural and
'eaſy for thoſe that have been in the Extream of *Arminianiſm*,
'to run into the contrary Extream of *Antinomianiſm*: As a
'*Pendulum*, if it be ſwung too far one Way, will, on its Re-
'turn, ſwing too far the other Way. Agreably, it's evident
'that ſome zealous Promoters of the *preſent glorious Work*,
'out of Indignation againſt *Arminian* Principles, which they
'have lately been delivered from, and which are ſo derogatory
'to the *Grace* of GOD; when they have eſpouſed the con-
'trary *Doctrines of Grace*, have carried Matters too far, and
'*verg'd* to *Antinomianiſm*. But this Miſconduct of theirs,
'has given the Enemies of thoſe Doctrines Advantage to re-
'proach them, as naturally tending to Libertiniſm, Enthu-
'ſiaſm, and the like; and to poſſeſs People's Minds with Pre-
'judices againſt them, and the glorious Work of GOD's
'Grace which through a divine Influence has lately attended
'the powerful preaching of thoſe Doctrines. And they will
'not neglect to improve the Advantage to promote their own
'Scheme, and to bring over as many as they can to embrace
'their Principles; tho' thereby their Converſion ſhould be
'prevented rather than promoted. And it's to be fear'd,
'that what ſome Gentlemen have in View at this Time, is
'to promote *Arminianiſm* under Colour of diſcountenancing
'*Antinomianiſm*, and bearing *Teſtimony* againſt the *Diſorders*
'attending the preſent Work: And this we ought to be
'aware of, and duly guard againſt; leſt, inſtead of advance-
'ing the Cauſe and Intereſt of CHRIST, and his Truth and
'Grace, we ſhould by this Step, prejudice and hurt it our
'ſelves, and join with the Enemies of it in deſtroying it; and
'that at the ſame Time we would be thought to be tak-
'ing Care to promote it. As to *Diſorders*, *Irregularities*, &c.

'I

'I am of Mr. *Edwards*, the worthy Paſtor of *Northampton*'s 'Mind about them, and therefore muſt refer you to his *late* '*Book* for what I might ſay further under this Head; where-'in he vindicates the Conduct of the Friends of this Work 'in *ſome* of thoſe Things that are accounted Diſorders, tho' 'he cenſures them with Reſpect to *others*.

'With Reſpect to the ordaining of *Miſſionaries*, which has 'been practiſed for ſome Time in the Country, and has been 'lately voted a *Diſorder*, I can't join in cenſuring it as *ſuch*; 'or in condemning the Practice of ſeparating ſome of the 'Fraternity, that are *qualified* for it, to the ſacred Miniſtry, '*when there is manifeſt Occaſion* for it. Thus, I have written 'my Thoughts about ſome Things, that will lie before the '*Convention*, and am,

'Your unworthy Fellow-Labourer in the Goſpel,

'*Jeremiah Wiſe*.

No. III. From the Rev. Mr. THACHER, Paſtor of the firſt Church in *Middleborough*, in the County of *Plymouth*.

'Middleborough, *June* 30. 1743.

'BEING prevented the Opportunity of giving an *oral* '*Teſtimony* to the *Truth* and *Reality* of *the extraordi-'nary Work* the LORD has lately appeared in among us, in '*convincing*, *converting Sinners*, *building up*, *comforting* and '*ſealing* the *converted*; I embrace this Way to do it: In 'which I ſhall confine my ſelf to what I have ſeen and been 'acquainted with among the *People of my Charge*, tho' I 'might ſpeak of the ſame in *other* Places.

'There have been *above two Hundred* in a Judgment of 'Charity *ſavingly wrought on* ſince *November* 1741. *Diverſe* '*before that* had been met with under the Miniſtry of the 'Rev. Mr. *Daniel Rogers* and the Rev. Mr. *Wheelock*, not 'included in this Number. But on *one Day* in *November* 'aforeſaid, *above Eighty* were prick'd at the Heart by a Ser-'mon from *Rom.* 8. 1. had here from the Rev. Mr. *Joſiah* '*Crocker*. Scarce a Sermon deliver'd after *that wonderful* '*Day*, but the Hearts of ſome ſeem to be reach'd by Con-'viction, Converſion or Conſolation. This Revival of the 'Power of Godlineſs appears to be the *genuine Work* of the 'HOLY SPIRIT accompanying *his Word*, and in *Anſwer* to 'a *Spirit of Prayer* poured out from GOD to plead with '*Faith in* CHRIST for *this Good*. Spiritual Things are now 'treated and felt as Realities. -- -- --

We

'We have *not known Viſions*, nor *Trances*, nor *Revelations*. 'But *brotherly exhorting* with more Modeſty and Affection 'than hath been repreſented. *Neither* have theſe divine In-'fluences been attended with *anabaptiſtical* Errors: *Twenty* 'that were before in thoſe Miſtakes are brought off. *Neither* 'have they been attended with the Errors of *Familiſm*, or '*Antinomianiſm*. The *Arminian* Errors were by the Converts 'univerſally detected and deteſted: The *Doctrines of Grace* 'ſhine in their Underſtandings; defended and earneſtly con-'tended for from inward and real Experience. The HOLY 'SCRIPTURES made the *Standard* to try & examine Truth: 'which are now carefully ſearched, and eſteem'd above 'Gold: And thoſe *Principles* that will not bear the Trial 'by *this Rule*, are rejected. A general and humble Wil-'lingneſs to *miniſterial Inſtructions*, eagerly ſought & attend-'ed on: yet without giving up their Underſtandings. GOD's '*Worſhip*, publick, private and ſecret, attended, and other-'wiſe attended than ever. The Prayerleſs are prayerful; 'the Looſe, ſtrict; the *Ordinances* humbly ſought, devoutly 'attended on. I believe I have ſeen at one Adminiſtration 'two *Hundred* taſting the Sweetneſs of the Redeemer's Love 'at one Inſtant. Indeed CHRIST is now precious, breathed 'after, eſteemed, and pathetically recommended in Life 'and Converſation, relied on, rejoyced in. Their *Lives* 'are reformed as well as *Principles*, ſcripturally renewed. 'The Drunkard is ſober; the Churl peaceful: Perſonal '*Feuds* that had been ſubſiſting *more than eleven Years* are 'buried; and *Love* takes Place and *Power*, where Envy 'and Malice and Hatred formerly ruled: *Reſtitution* in 'many Places made; in more, the Wrongs acknowledged. 'In a Word, all *the Fruits* of the SPIRIT are viſible in the 'Converts: and they too, *free* from *cenſurable Enthuſiaſm*. '*This is evidently the LORD's Doing, and it's marvellous in 'our Eyes!*

'The *aboveſaid Number* is *excluſive* of *many Scores* who 'have been *awakened* by the Word in the late Showers, and 'yet I fear have reſted ſhort of CHRIST, & got ſecure again.

'I hope the true *Deſign* of this is, *that GOD may have 'the Glory of his own Work* ---- And THIS TESTIMONY I 'give, as knowing I muſt give an Account; with an hum-'bling Senſe of *my many Deficiencies* in *this great Day of 'divine Grace*: Intreating the fervent Prayers of all that

love

'love the LORD JESUS in Sincerity, that I may not be a 'Caſt-away, after I have preached to others; but may find 'Grace and obtain Mercy from the LORD to fulfil the 'Miniſtry I have received, and to be found faithful in all 'the Parts thereof. *Peter Thacher.*

No. IV. From the Rev. Mr. SHURTLEFF, Paſtor of the ſecond Church in *Portſmouth*, in the Province of NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

'To ſuch of the Reverend *Paſtors* of the Churches of the 'Maſſachuſetts-Bay, or *any other* of the *neighbouring Govern-* 'ments, as may convene in *Boſton* on the 7th Day of *July* 1743.

'*Reverend and Beloved,*

'I Should have rejoyced in the Opportunity of being with 'you in your *preſent Convention*, had it been the Will of 'GOD; but being providentially hinder'd, I think my 'ſelf oblig'd to make this brief Declaration to the Glory of 'his Name, viz. *That there has for ſome Time paſt plainly 'appear'd to be a remarkable Revival of Religion, and a mar-'vellous Work of* GOD's *Grace going on in* PORTSMOUTH *in* NEW-HAMPSHIRE; the Place in which I am called to 'labour in the Goſpel Miniſtry. That among the very 'many that have been awaken'd and deeply convinced, there 'is a goodly Number that are giving all the Evidence that 'can be expected of a real and ſaving Change.

'I muſt at the ſame Time declare there has not been that 'Diſturbance from Lay-Exhorters, from an Invaſion of the 'miniſterial Office, and many other Irregularities, that have 'been complain'd of in many other Places. And here I would 'take Leave with all Humility to ſay, that had I the Oppor-'tunity of being with you, whilſt I ſhould gladly bear Teſti-'mony againſt theſe Things whereſoever they prevail, I ſhould 'be for uſing a becoming Care *that the Diſorders complain'd of 'might not be magnified in an undue Meaſure*, and that nothing 'might come under that Character and Denomination that 'is not worthy of it. Whilſt I ſhould be *for guarding our 'Pulpits and Pariſhes againſt bold, and ignorant Intruders, and 'ſuch as may unjuſtly pretend to an extraordinary Call & War-'rant from GOD*, I ſhould be careful *that none of the zealous and 'faithful Preachers of the everlaſting Goſpel, and the important 'Doctrines of it might be excluded*, being perſwaded that

GOD

'GOD *has bleſs'd the Labours of Strangers and even of* Itine-
'rants *among the People with whom I am concern'd.* And I
'can't forbear ſaying, that as it appears to me *that it would*
'*be of ill Conſequence, if none might upon any Occaſion what ſo-*
'*ever preach within the Limits of any Congregation without the*
'*Leave of its ſtated Paſtor*, I deſire *that neither my ſelf, nor*
'*any of my Brethren ſhould be poſſeſs'd of ſuch an abſolute and*
'*deſpotick Power.*

'That you may be under the Influence of the great HEAD
'of the Church; that he who holds the Stars in his right
'Hand would direct and lead you, and that you may unite
'in ſuch Meaſures as may tend to the Progreſs of that good
'Work that has been begun, and be a Means greatly to
'advance his Kingdom and Intereſt thro' the whole Land,
'is the unfeigned Prayer of one of the meaneſt, and unwor-
'thieſt of your Brethren in the Goſpel, *&c.*

'*William Shurtleff.*

No. V. From the Rev. Mr. RUSSELL, Paſtor of the *weſtern Church* in *Barnſtable*, in the County of *Barnſtable.*

'I Am of the Mind that there has been *a great and good*
'*Work going forward in many Parts of the Land, beyond*
'*what has been in ſome Years paſt.* Many have been *awakned,*
'*convinced, reformed*, and I hope many *ſavingly converted*:
'and I think we ought to give GOD the Praiſe and Glory
'of it. Yet I think there ſhould be a proper Teſtimony
'born againſt the Errors, Diſorders and Confuſions that have
'prevailed in many Places.

'But perhaps the *Queſtion* may occur, *What are the Diſ-*
'*orders, &c.* which are to be teſtify'd againſt? 'Tis proba-
'ble one may call that Diſorder and Confuſion which another
'calls lovely and beautiful, and endeavours to promote.

'Brother GREEN and I had Thoughts of being at the
'*Commencement*, but ſaw him Yeſterday, and he thinks the
'State of his Health and other Circumſtances forbid his go-
'ing. And the Illneſs of my Family diſcourages me. *I*
'*hope thoſe who neither come nor ſend will not be branded as Op-*
'*poſers.* I wiſh you the divine Conduct in the Affair. And
'deſire an Intereſt in your Prayers, that I may obtain Mercy
'to be faithful, and that I may be ſucceſsful in my Miniſtry.

'I am your Brother and Fellow Labourer,

'*Jonathan Ruſſell.*

Barnſtable June 30. 1743. No.

No. VI. From Six of the Rev. *Paſtors* of the *Eaſtern Aſſociation* in the *County* of *York*.

'WE the Subſcribers, *Paſtors* of the *Eaſtern Aſſociation*, 'taking into ſerious Conſideration the *State of Religion* in *our ſeveral Charges*, and *throughout the Land* at *this Day*, look on our ſelves bound in the moſt expreſs Manner to declare our ſelves with reſpect thereto.

'And *in as much as it inconteſtibly appears to us from what we have ſeen among our ſelves and in other Places, that by an extraordinary divine Influence, there hath been an* HAPPY REVIVAL *of* RELIGION *in our Land; we dare not but publickly ſpeak out our grateful Senſe thereof to the Honour of the free and ſovereign Grace of* GOD.

'But whereas at the ſame Time there have been great *Complaints* of prevailing *Errors* in *Doctrine* and *Diſorders* in *Practice*, ſuch as, a *denying the Doctrine of the divine Decrees, Juſtification by Faith alone, irreſiſtible Grace in the Converſion of Sinners*;---- and alſo the *aſſerting, That ſecret Impulſes on the Minds of Perſons without due Regard to the written Word of* GOD *may be depended on as the Rule of their Conduct*; that *none are converted but ſuch as know themſelves to be ſo, and can tell the Time when*; that *Aſſurance is of the Eſſence of ſaving Faith*; and, that *Sanctification is no Evidence of Juſtification*; with *other* the like *Arminian, Antinomian* and *Familiſtical* Tenets and Opinions: All which we judge are contrary to the pure Doctrines of the Goſpel: And as to *Diſorders* in *Practice*; ſuch as, *private Perſons of no Education, without any regular Call taking upon them to preach the Word of* GOD; the *ordaining and ſeparating any Perſon to the Work of the evangelical Miniſtry at Large, and without a ſpecial Relation to any particular Charge to enter into the regular Diſtricts of ſettled Miniſters*; *Perſons aſſuming to themſelves the Prerogative of* GOD *to look into and judge the Hearts of others, cenſuring and condemning their Brethren, and eſpecially their Miniſters, as Phariſees, Arminians, blind and unconverted*, &c. and upon theſe pretended Grounds *making an actual Separation* from their reſpective Paſtors, though they openly diſavow the above-mentioned Errors, and are regular in their Lives: All which *Errors* and *Diſorders* being of pernicious Conſequence, as *tending to obſcure the glorious Work of* GOD, *bring it into Diſrepute and obſtruct the Progreſs of it*, we

'would

'would in like Manner bear our joint and ſolemn *Teſtimony* 'againſt.

'And tho' we are fully perſuaded the human Mind under 'the Operations of the divine Spirit, may be overborn with 'Joy and Terror; yet the Tranſports and Agitations that 'have appeared in ſome Places from the ungovern'd Paſſions 'of People, and the exceſs of Joy and Sorrow, we judge to 'be no certain Indication of the ſpecial Preſence or Work 'of the SPIRIT of GOD. But at the ſame Time we '*lament the impious Spirit of ſuch as from hence take Occaſion* '*to reproach the* WORK OF THE DIVINE SPIRIT *in the* '*Hearts of the Children of* GOD.

Sign'd,

Benjamin Allen, *Paſtor of the 2d Church in* Falmouth.
Wm. Thompſon, *Paſtor of the Church in* Scarborough.
Samuel Jefferds, *Paſtor of the Church in* Wells.
John Hovey, *Paſtor of the Church in* Arundel.
Nicholas Loring, *Paſtor of the Church in* North-Yarmouth.
Moſes Morrill, *Paſtor of the Church in* Biddeford.

'At an Aſſociation Meeting, *Scarborough* June 23. 1743.

'*Voted*, That the above Declaration be delivered to the 'Rev. Mr. *Smith* to be by him communicated at Diſcre- 'tion to the VENERABLE CONVENTION of *Miniſters* who 'are to meet at *Boſton* the *Day after* the approaching *Com-* '*mencement*, as the Sentiments of the Aſſociation with Rela- 'tion to the preſent religious Appearances in the Country.

'*Benjamin Allen*, Moderator.

To be continued.